

2016 Children's Summit

September 7 - 9, 2016 | Younes Conference Center | Kearney, NE | The Court Improvement Project

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

10:00 - NOON **Registration | Check-In** [PRE-FUNCTION AREA](#)

10:00 - 11:30 am **YRTC Tour** | Meet at Registration Booth at 9:45 (*Only 20 to a group*)

12:00 - 1:45 pm **Welcome Lunch & Opening Plenary: Improving Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth; Policies, Principles and Practices Driving Justice Reform** | Dr. Shay Bilchik [CRYSTAL BALLROOM](#)

Using evidence-based practices and innovative approaches, Nebraska has built upon its foundational principles to steadily improve outcomes for justice system involved youth. Shay Bilchik, Research Professor and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, will talk about current practices driving juvenile justice reform. Mr. Bilchik will highlight the body of research that serves as the underpinning for these reforms and the tools needed to adopt and institutionalize these practices. He will also highlight efforts in Nebraska that align with what he describes as an evidence-based decision-making platform. In this regard participants will be encouraged to consider a comprehensive framework for system improvement as the state justice system continues to take shape.

1:45 - 2:00 pm **Break**

2:00 - 3:15 pm **Breakout A**

› Children in Tribal Court | Panel [DIAMOND 1](#)

This panel will discuss tribal courts, tribal juvenile courts, and ways tribes and tribal courts work to provide for the best interests of Native American children.

› Working Across Systems to Improve Outcomes for Crossover Youth: The CYPM *Shay Bilchik, Amy Latshaw, Jana Peterson, Desiree Acosta* ★ [DIAMOND 2](#)

In this session, Professor Shay Bilchik will provide an overview of the Crossover Youth population, including the characteristics and correlations associated with their crossing over between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. He will highlight the evidence-based Crossover Youth Practice Model developed by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. The practice model, now introduced in over 90 counties, including 5 counties in Nebraska, identifies the policies and practices needed to improve system operation and outcomes for crossover youth. Participants in this workshop will learn about the outcomes achieved in the implementation of the model in communities across the country. The session will also explore ways to prevent the crossing over of youth, and serve as a precursor to the session that will follow highlighting the implementation of the model in Dodge, Douglas, Gage, Lancaster and Sarpy counties. Joining Professor Bilchik will be Desiree Acosta, from the Nebraska Family Support Network, who will share her firsthand experience with the child welfare system and the challenges that youth in that system face maintaining a sense of permanency and achieving normal adolescent benchmarks. The session will also feature Amy Latshaw (Probation) and Jana Peterson (DHHS), who will provide an overview of state level guidance with respect to crossover youth practice in Nebraska.

TRACK CATEGORIES

Child Welfare	■
Juvenile Justice	▲
Special Populations	★
Judicial	■
Transitioning Youth	●
Trafficking	◆
Attorney	IT
Native Youth & Families	●



2:00 - 3:15 pm

› **Nebraska Systems of Care** | *Tamara Gavin, Betty Medinger* ■ **DIAMOND 3**

System of Care is a framework for integrating behavioral health services and supports for children and youth who have serious emotional disturbance, and their families, through a collaboration across and involving public and private partners, families and youth. A System of Care improves access to a full array of coordinated community-based services and builds on the strengths of individuals. The Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC) will partner to develop a common language for care, unify policies and practices including family-centered care, and avoid duplication of service for children and their families. Attendees will be provided with an overview of the NeSOC framework and strategic plan and will learn how this important system initiative will support youth and families in reaching successful outcomes.

› **Truancy Court | Panel** ▲ **DIAMOND 4**

This session will describe the Lancaster County Truancy Diversion Project, also known as Truancy Court, that began in 2011 and has since expanded to several additional schools in Lincoln, Nebraska. You will learn how this program works, why it works, and why combating truancy is so important, regardless of the approach taken to address it.

› **When Permanency is Not Permanent: Exploring Dissolution** ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 5**

Courtney Schlueter, Sara Sanson, Amber and Robert Baker

This presentation will explore one family's experience in order to highlight common successes and challenges faced by families Right Turn serves. This family will discuss the heartbreak of having to terminate a guardianship and many more parenting challenges. They will also share how they have remained committed and teach love and forgiveness.

› **Interpreters in Nebraska Juvenile Courts** ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 8**

Jennifer Verhein, Vladimir Bazan, Marsha Conroy

An overview of the work of certified court interpreters in Nebraska Juvenile Courts, including the role of the interpreter, challenges faced by interpreters, and best practices in working with interpreters. Session will include two empathy exercises for participants to experience limited language proficiency and to practice simultaneous interpretation.

› **Understanding the Culture of Poverty** | *Tammi Winchester* ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 9**

The purpose of this training is to educate about the perspective of those who live in poverty. This session will discuss strategies to increase skills and knowledge related to the culture of poverty, raise our individual and group awareness about biases as it relates to poverty and enhance the understanding of children and families to assist in strengthening interactions.

› **The Significance and Eligibility of Title IV-E** ■ **DIAMOND 10**

Nanette Simmons, Manuel Escamilla, Judge Michael Burns

This session will provide information regarding Title IV-E eligibility and the significance of Title IV-E for the children and families. In order to meet Title IV-E eligibility there are federal guidelines that must be followed. During this session, we will discuss the required IV-E judicial determination language and provide examples of court orders which meet IV-E guidelines.

3:15 - 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 - 5:00 pm

Breakout B

› **Children's Health-Why the Environment Matters (From Lead to Methamphetamine)** ■ **DIAMOND 1**

Sue Dempsey

Children are more vulnerable to toxins in their environment than adults. By protecting children, we may also improve their health as adults. Most scientists agree that both the environment and genetics play a role in the development of diseases and disorders, and since we can't change our genes, identifying and managing exposure to environmental toxins offers the best hope for prevention. Expected learning outcomes include: familiarity with routes of exposure to environmental toxins and why children are more vulnerable; what environmental toxins are of most concern for children and why; and what can be done to mitigate or minimize that exposure.

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Trafficking	◆
Attorney	■
Native Youth & Families	●



3:45 – 5:00 pm

› **The Power of Collaboration: How Counties in Nebraska Are Working Across Systems to Better Serve Crossover Youth** ★ **DIAMOND 2**

Michael Umpierre, Judge Gendler, Meggie Misfeldt, Monica DeMent, Jennifer Manning, Cara Stirts

Interested in learning how to better serve youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems? Since 2011, five counties in Nebraska—both big and small, urban and rural—have embarked on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), a research-based initiative designed to enhance outcomes for this population. A multi-disciplinary panel—composed of representatives statewide from the judiciary, county attorney’s office, probation, and HHS—will share lessons learned from implementing the CYPM, as well as insightful strategies for collaborating across systems.

› **SIF/Unconnected Youth** | *Joan Frances* ● **DIAMOND 3**

Session attendees will gain information on six Nebraska communities, covering 39 counties, that are developing systems to support youth 14 to 24 who are unconnected from family relationships needed to successfully transition to adult life. The Social Innovation Fund Connected Youth Initiative enhances the framework of Project Everlast in Lincoln, Omaha and the Panhandle. CYI statewide is further enhanced through a learning community agreement to embrace Youth Thrive Promotive and Protective Factors for youth outcomes.

› **Clarity and Collaboration: The Different Roles of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice**

Kari Rumbaugh, Lindy Bryceson ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 4**

As implementation of Juvenile Justice Reform continues in Nebraska, one of the key areas of focus is clarifying the distinct roles of juvenile justice and child welfare. These roles are very different, but must be united to maximize the services and support provided to youth in order to ensure success. Additionally, youth may require supports from both systems simultaneously which reinforces the need for collaboration. This session will discuss the different roles of juvenile justice and child welfare, as well as how collaboration is essential for probation officers and child welfare workers who collaborate together to develop plans that ensure youth achieve success in Nebraska.

› **Alternative Response: Partnering with Families to Safely Care for Children in Their Own Home and Communities** | *Alyson Goedken, Kristin Dewispelare, Raegan Brown, Megan Kawa* ■ **DIAMOND 5**

Participants will gain an understanding of the Alternative Response Program highlighting target population, program eligibility, outcomes and oversight and accountability. A panel of field experts (CFS Specialists, CFS Supervisors and Service Area Administrator) will share Alternative Response experiences.

› **What’s New in the Division of Developmental Disability** | *Lori Harder* ★ **DIAMOND 8**

Application - when and how do I apply? Eligibility - what is the criteria? What evidence do you use? What services are available?

› **The Laws, They Are A’Changin-Changes to the Nebraska ICWA and BIA Regulations**

Robbie McEwen, Jill Holt ● **DIAMOND 9**

This session will provide an overview of the changes made to the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act and the implementation of the new BIA regulations. Attendees can expect to come away from this presentation with a greater legal understanding of how the ICWA applies in child welfare proceedings.

› **Model Judicial ICWA Training: Historical and Cultural Perspectives on ICWA**

Judge Vampola, Judge Runge, Misty Frazier, Ansley Griffin ■ **DIAMOND 7**

Put together by the Capacity Building Center for Tribes and Courts, this training for Judges will: **1)** Describe the role of the Judge in improving outcomes for Indian children and their families **2)** Allow the participant to understand ICWA, its historical and cultural underpinnings, goals and purpose, and how that understanding applies to bench practice, daily decision-making, and design and implementation of program, practice and policy improvements. This session is the first of five trainings to be offered throughout the year.

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Attorney	■
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

5:00 - 6:30 pm **Networking Reception** CRYSTAL BALLROOM

7:00 - 9:00 pm **“Paper Tigers” Screening & Moderated Discussion** CRYSTAL BALLROOM

Paper Tigers is a powerful documentary that shows how one high school “radically changed its approach to disciplining its students, becoming a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence and disease that affect families.” Educators, in collaboration with families, service providers and the judicial system, have the power to make the biggest impact on the lives of our most vulnerable youth.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

10:00 - NOON **Registration | Check-In**

8:00 - 9:15 am **Data Overview and Team Breakout** | Katie Bass CRYSTAL BALLROOM

YRTC Tour | Meet at Registration Booth at 7:45 (*Only 20 to a group*)

9:15 - 9:30 am **Break**

9:30 - 10:45 am **Breakout C**

› QEWs - The Who, What, When, Why and How ♦ DIAMOND 1

Robbie McEwen, Jill Holt, Ansley Griffin, Candi Marcantel

This session will provide juvenile court stakeholders with information about the use of Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) testimony during Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) proceedings. Changes to the Nebraska ICWA through LB 566 which strengthen and clarify this provision of the Federal ICWA will be highlighted. Through this session, participants will: **1)** Gain an understanding of WHY QEW testimony is still a critical provision of the ICWA. **2)** Learn WHEN a QEW must testify and WHAT a QEW must testify to during the course of an ICWA proceeding. **3)** Learn WHO should be called to serve as a QEW and some ideas for HOW to identify and secure QEW testimony from a member of the child’s tribe.

› Community and Evidence-Based Services Support Juvenile Justice Reform

Anne Dailey, Dave Reed, Kari Rumbaugh ▲ DIAMOND 2

Expansion of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and the Boys Town Ecological In-Home Family Treatment models across Nebraska.

› Human Trafficking 101 | Stephen Patrick O’Meara, Erin Aliano ♦ DIAMOND 3

Basic overview of sex trafficking in Nebraska and the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, an “enhanced collaborative community caretaking response” to human trafficking, to learn what Nebraska is doing to: **1)** Help human trafficking victims/survivors, **2)** Stop traffickers, and **3)** Eliminate the human trafficking market.

› Effective Guardian Ad Litem Representation | Chris Costantakos ▮ DIAMOND 4

Another look at GAL representation in complex situations, including but not limited to protecting confidentiality at family team meetings; when to close a hearing; use of discovery to support best interests, and issues surrounding medically fragile children.

› What’s Happening with NE’s children? The Child and Family Services Review

Debi Hatfield, Doug Beran, Vicki Maca, Kathleen Stolz ■ DIAMOND 5

The session will address the critical components included in NE’s CFSR, scheduled for June of 2017. Participants will learn about the purpose of the review, how the state’s performance will be measured, what is involved in the on-site review process and what to expect if you are invited to participate in NE’s federal review.

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9:30 - 10:45 am › **Transitioning Youth Panel** | *Cassy Blakely* ● **DIAMOND 8**

Adulting is something most are still figuring out. For youth aging out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the learning curve can be even steeper. Join current and former young people with youth system experience for an interactive session on how to best support youth in transitioning to adulthood. The session will include discussion of the skills desired, ways youth wish to grow, and opportunities for participation and discussion.

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Trafficking	◆
Attorney	■
Native Youth & Families	●

› **The Importance of Relationships in Family Drug Court: Enhancing Well-Being for Children and Families Using a Team Approach** ■ **DIAMOND 9**

Jennie Cole-Mossman, Judge Roger Heideman, Jaime Bahm

Project Safe Start Nebraska, funded by SAMHSA from 2011-2014, successfully enhanced services for young children in Family Drug Court in Lancaster County. Subsequent to this grant, Judge Heideman and the Family Drug Court team developed an infusion model of Family Drug Court that incorporates the principles of Project Safe Start, but includes all substance abuse cases. Participants receive evidence based practices for substance abuse and early childhood mental health and trauma. This court focuses on relationships. The court practice and process works on all relationships including those between team and parent, parents and children, and the court and the team.

› **Enhanced Resource Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Abuse and Neglect Cases (NCJFCJ)**
Judge Douglas Johnson ■ **DIAMOND 7**

The Guidelines cover all stages of the child welfare court process, from the protective custody hearing until court involvement has ended. Participants will learn the criteria for judicial decisions, the characteristics of each hearing and outline needed procedural steps, the key decisions that must be made, specify when each hearing needs to take place, and understand the judge's role at that stage of the hearing process. The Guidelines are the heart of TEOC systems reform and improvement. This training is for all who work in juvenile court.

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 - 12:15 pm **Plenary Speaker: How Foster Care Renders Youth More Vulnerable for Sex-Trafficking** | T. Ortiz
CRYSTAL BALLROOM

Lunch | Awards **CRYSTAL BALLROOM**

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Breakout D

1:30 - 2:45 pm

› **Creating a Safe Space: Tips on How to Provide Physical and Psychological Safety for Children and Adolescents Exposed to Trauma** | *Jennie Cole-Mossman* ■ **DIAMOND 1**

From monsters in the closet to chronic running away, children of all ages exposed to trauma come with an "invisible suitcase" filled with emotions and behaviors that are hard for case professionals to understand and manage. This session will give practical tips for that all case professionals can use to create physical and psychological safety for children and adolescents.

› **Healing the Hurt of Historical Trauma** | *Misty Frazier* ● **DIAMOND 2**

Participants will be able to identify what historical trauma is and how it affects the American Indian/Alaska Native population. Participants will have a greater understanding of how the American Indian population is unique and have a greater understanding of how to be more culturally competent in working with this population.



1:30 - 2:45 pm

› **Measuring Whether Programs are Effective in Nebraska** | *Anne Hobbs* ▲ **DIAMOND 4**

The Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) is statutorily charged with measuring the effectiveness of programs funded through the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Fund. Because this funding source supports roughly 225 programs and agencies, a systematic method of evaluation was required. This presentation will outline the process that has been utilized to measure whether programs are effective, and will include early results of programs JJI is evaluating.

› **Human Trafficking Research and Data: A Nebraska Perspective** ◆ **DIAMOND 5**

Meghan Malik, Crysta Price

Research is beginning to paint a picture of what human trafficking looks like in Nebraska. We discuss the findings of some of the most recently emerging research addressing the needs, scope, and context of trafficking. Participants will hear about the needs and capacity of Nebraska service providers based on survey results, they will become familiar with the quantitative data regarding the online commercial sex market, and they will learn how to respond and combat this issue from the perspective of survivors.

› **School Resource Officers** | *Rodney Henderson, David Westerholt* ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 8**

We will be explaining the role of school resource officers in both urban and rural settings. We will also be focusing on the SROs goal of keeping adolescents out of "the system." This will be an open forum Q&A style presentation.

› **Love, Laughter...Creating a Happily Ever After** | *Suellen Koepke, Miranda Stoll* ★ **DIAMOND 9**

This presentation will provide attendees with information as to how to identify teen dating violence, what the risks for the teens would be, prevention strategies, and how an individual is able to advocate for the teen.

› **Termination of Parental Rights Filings: A General Overview** | *Shellie Sabata* ■ **DIAMOND 10**

This session will cover the applicable timelines involved when considering filing a termination of parental rights, the logistics of how to actually file a termination, and what one may expect during the subsequent trial and appellate stages that follow.

2:45 - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 - 4:30 pm

Breakout E

› **Tribal Social Services** | *Deb Denny, Misty Frazier, Sheila Wolff, Amy Painter & Ansley Griffin* ● **DIAMOND 1**

This panel of dedicated child and family professionals from Nebraska's four federally-recognized tribes will describe their work, successes, barriers in every-day efforts to help children achieve a safe and healthy life. How is their work the same as in non-Indian communities? How is it different? Join the panel in learning, sharing and growing in mutual tribal-state understanding to protect and nurture vulnerable Native children and their families.

› **JDAI Nebraska: Success and Challenges of Implementing System Improvement**

Michele Lueders, Judge Bob O'Neal, Mary Visek ▲ **DIAMOND 2**

Nebraska has been actively implementing the core strategies of Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) since 2011. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to hear the successes and challenges of detention reform work. Those in attendance will also learn how the core strategies can assist with detention and overarching juvenile justice system improvement in their local communities. This session is designed for Judges, County Attorneys, Probation staff, community services providers and anyone else interested in learning more on JDAI.

› **Structured Decision Making** ■ **DIAMOND 3**

Kinsey Baker, Kari Pitt, Lara Swerczek, Katherine Batt, Casey Smith

This session will provide an overview of the Structured Decision Making safety model utilized by the Department of Health and Human Services. Attendees will have an understanding of the different assessments within SDM and purpose for each.

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Child Welfare	■
Juvenile Justice	▲
Special Populations	★
Judicial	■
Transitioning Youth	●
Trafficking	◆
Attorney	■
Native Youth & Families	●



3:15 - 4:30 pm

› **Winning the Case Out of Court** | *Christine Henningsen, Dennis Marks* ■ **DIAMOND 4**

This session focuses on interactions juvenile defense counsel has with probation officers, prosecutors, judges and parents. Juvenile defenders will learn how to interact effectively with key players in a status or delinquency proceeding to further the client's stated interests and strategic goals in a case.

› **Utilizing Services of Mediation Centers for Youth and Families** ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 5**

Charles Lieske, Lindsay Snyder, Judge Randin Roland, Jennifer Taylor, Kate Benish, Kathy Gabrielle Madelung

Nebraska's mediation center network offers services valuable to families and youth. This breakout session will provide a brief overview of mediation and facilitation opportunities for families and youth in transition due to divorce and separation and those involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare or special education systems. This diverse panel will discuss services from the perspectives of attorneys, GALs, Judges, NDHHS, Probation and mediation centers.

› **Juvenile Diversion Program Tips, Trends and Innovations** ▲ **DIAMOND 8**

Amy Hoffman, Becky Steiner, Denise Kracl, Pam Lausterer, Miranda Stoll

Panel consisting of urban, rural, and multi-county diversion programs will present on the challenges and creative ways to meet the needs in their community. The panel will discuss topics such as how they got their community involved, lessons they learned developing their program, and creative ways they provided services when there was a lack of providers and resources.

› **The Strengthening Families Act: Normalcy, Youth Empowerment and Permanency in Practice**

Sarah Helvey, Cassy Blakely ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 9**

The normalcy, youth empowerment and permanency provisions of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (SFA) and the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act (NSFA) as part of LB 746 (2016) have the potential to improve the lives of children and youth in care, but it's up to us to maximize this opportunity and implement the new requirements well at the local level – across service areas of the state, in homes and placements, and in the courts. In this session, you will hear an overview of the federal and Nebraska SFA and participate in small group discussions using hypotheticals about how "normalcy" plays out in practice with reflection and facilitation lead by young people with foster care experience. You will also get an update on the work of the Normalcy Taskforce and receive resources materials with practice tips.

› **What Does a Successful Juvenile Justice System Look Like in Nebraska?**

Nora Murphy, Charmagne Campbell-Patton ▲ **DIAMOND 10**

Over the past ten years, there have been a number of efforts to reform the juvenile justice system in Nebraska. The CEBS advisory council is committed to looking at how the CEBS initiative intersects with the other reform efforts and the wider system as a whole. People at this summit work in a wide variety of sectors and contexts with varying values, strengths, histories, and cultures, and different ideas about what a successful reform looks like. This workshop is based in the assumption that successful reform is collaborative, with people working towards a shared vision that is relevant and inspiring across contexts and time. We invite anyone involved in the juvenile justice system to join us for an interactive session to map the juvenile justice system, explore your role in the system and develop a vision for what a successful juvenile justice system looks like. We will ask people to work collaboratively with colleagues around the following questions: * What does a successful juvenile justice system look like in Nebraska? * What guiding principles need to be present to make this a reality? * What are the important decision points in a young person's engagement with the juvenile justice system that make a difference? * What systems and key stakeholders need to be engaged with this work?

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Break

4:45 - 5:45 pm

YRTC Tour | Meet at Registration Booth at 4:30 (*Only 20 to a group*)

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Judges Dinner (*By invitation only*) ● **DIAMOND 6 & 7**

Team Coordinator's Dinner (*By invitation only*) ● **RUBY 7**

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8:30 - 9:45 am **Team Breakout**

9:45 - 11:00 am **Breakout F**

› **Society of Care: Behavioral Health & System Change** | *Greg Donovan* ● **DIAMOND 1**

Learn about the family-driven youth-guided inter-tribal Society of Care. Project efforts are focused on providing care to youth, supporting families, and advancing change that better the quality of life of Native American youth and families.

› **How Do We Know if Successful Juvenile Justice Reform is Happening?** ▲ **DIAMOND 2**

Nora Murphy, Charmagne Campbell-Patton

Developmental evaluation is an evaluation approach that supports innovative change and bridges systems thinking, complexity concepts, and evaluation practice to help leadership teams navigate and learn from ongoing system change efforts. This session will introduce participants to the Developmental Evaluation process we are using to understand how the CEBS initiative fits into the larger picture of juvenile justice reform in Nebraska and to identify what systems changes are needed to make the grant successful. This interactive session will ask people to engage the Developmental Evaluation concepts presented by working with colleagues to answer the following questions:

- *How will we know the extent to which and in what ways the system is changing?*
- *What is currently measured that could support this effort?*
- *What do people wish the system was tracking or measuring?*

› **Why We Drive Each Other Crazy and How We Can Stop: A School Attorney's Perspective**

Karen Haase ★ **DIAMOND 3**

When Karen clerked for the Honorable Judge C. Arlan Beam, he often reminded her that the 5 most dangerous words in the practice of law are, "Judge, you can't do that." Against Judge Beam's sage advice, Karen will cover the often frustrating and confusing educational issues faced by judges, advocates, schools, and attorneys when school-aged students are involved in the juvenile justice system. As a former classroom teacher, former judicial clerk, and now a private practitioner who focuses her practice on representing public school districts, Karen will use her unique perspective and experiences to provide a fast-paced discussion on the most complex and difficult issues relating to educating students involved in the juvenile justice system. Among the topics Karen will discuss are residency of students in the juvenile justice system, the basic educational opportunities for students with disabilities and a brief review of Nebraska's Student Discipline Act.

› **Walking the Walk: Creative Tools for Transforming Compassion Fatigue** ■ ▲ **DIAMOND 4**

Beth Reynolds Lewis, Kay Glidden

Compassion Fatigue has been called "a disorder that affects those who do their work well" (Figley, 2005). We pay an emotional price for doing the work we do. Conference attendees will improve their understanding of compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burn out and given practical take away tools and strategies to include in their daily self-care plan.

› **Bridge to Independence (B2i)** | *Terrence Williams, Dawn Coffey, Chris Mendoza* ● **DIAMOND 5**

Presentation on the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Program within Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Description of how youth and young adults transitioning out of the Child Welfare System can benefit from B2i while striving towards their own success and independence.

› **Youth in Need of Supervision and Support: Administrative Office of Probation's Response to Youth Charged with a Status Offense** | *Amoreena Brady* ▲ **DIAMOND 8**

A discussion of how the Administrative Office of Probation is utilizing two national organizations and their efforts in the area of status offense reform in order to assist in the development of case management standards that prove to be effective in serving this population. Probation's efforts in the development of specialized standards of supervision for youth charged with status offenses and the implementation of these standards in a pilot program located in District 3J (Lancaster County).

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9:45 - 11:00 am **I've Been Sloaned** | *Gail Steen*  **DIAMOND 9**

Overview of significant cases in the last calendar year with a discussion of In re Interest of Sloane.

11:00 - 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 - 12:15 pm **Closing Plenary: Compassion as Innovation - Fundamentally Reframing What Families Need From Government Systems** | Judge Katherine Lucero **CRYSTAL BALLROOM**

Judge Katherine Lucero will discuss shifting from the individual child as the client to the “family” as the client by outlining family centered strategies that work for both child welfare and juvenile justice interventions. These strategies focus on both accountability and compassion, address dismantling structural barriers that create poor outcomes for children of color and help to inspire all of us to do the rewarding but difficult work that we all signed up to do as social workers, judges, attorneys, child advocates, probation officers, behavioral health providers, administrators and agency directors.



Speaker Biographies

Tammi Winchester

Tammi Winchester is a Training Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services with over 8 years' experience in child welfare, having worked in multiple positions of the field. She has spent the past 4 years as a training specialist providing training to thousands of professionals and community members in partnership with Project Harmony (Child Advocacy Center). The topics range from, mandatory reporting to theater-based training for professionals working in the home and many more. Tammi's educational background includes a master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management from Bellevue University.

Jon Seagrass

Jonathan Seagrass is the Managing Attorney of Legal Aid of Nebraska's Native American Program, which provides free legal services to indigent Native Americans in Nebraska. His passion is working to make equal justice happen for all Native Americans regardless of their ability to pay. Jonathan has worked with the Native American Program since 2008, and has extensive experience representing clients in tribal court. Jonathan graduated from the Creighton University School of Law in 2009. While in law school he interned with United State Magistrate Judge Thomas Thalken. He is licensed to practice law in Nebraska, and the Ponca, Winnebago, Omaha, and Santee Sioux Tribal Courts.

Judge Patrick Runge

Patrick is an attorney who has been in practice since 1995, operating his own law firm based in Omaha, and service the needs of eastern Nebraska. His practice areas have focused on family law, criminal defense, juvenile law, estate planning, and Native American law.

Patrick has also worked in Indian Country since 1995, serving as public defender for the Winnebago Tribe and the Omaha Tribe. Since 2003, Patrick has served as a judge for the Winnebago Tribal Court, and as chief judge since 2010. Patrick has also served as the chief judge of the Ponca Tribal Court since 2014.

Patrick is a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, a statewide body working to improve the service provided to vulnerable children and families in the justice system. He has served on numerous subcommittees of the Commission, and is the chair of the Tribal-State Collaboration subcommittee. Patrick also served as president of the Omaha Barristers in 2012.

In addition to his private practice and his service to the Winnebago Tribe, Patrick has been an adjunct professor at the Creighton University School of Law, teaching Native American Law to second- and third-year law students on a bi-annual basis since 2012. Patrick is also a faculty member of the Nebraska Victim Advocate Academy held in Omaha.

In 2015, Patrick was appointed as defense counsel to the District Six Adult Drug Court based in Blair, Nebraska. In this role, Patrick advocates on behalf of participants in the Drug Court, being their voice and protecting their interests as they work towards achieving a sober life through the structure of the Drug Court process.

In 2016, Patrick began serving as the Authorized Attorney responsible for the civil establishment and enforcement of child support in Washington County. In this role, Patrick is responsible for the civil representation of the county's interest in child support with regards to establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations for parents in Washington County District Court.

Patrick is a 1994 graduate cum laude of Creighton University School of Law, and a 1991 graduate magna cum laude of the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a BSBA in Economics.

Outside of his legal practice, Patrick is a sportswriter covering Nebraska football for his website, The Double Extra Point. He resides in Omaha with his wife, Mary Beth, their two boys Talik and Trenel, their dog and two cats. He is an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Millard.



Speaker Biographies

Amy Latshaw

Throughout her career, Amy has had the opportunity to work within many facets of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System. Her past experience includes; The Lancaster County Youth Services Center, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva, Juvenile Parole/Health and Human Services-Office of Juvenile Services, and as a Probation officer serving the Separate Juvenile Court in Lancaster County. Amy's current position with the Office of Probation Administration focuses on providing early access to rehabilitative services, evaluation, and quality investigative reports during initial stages of the juvenile court system.

Jana Peterson

Jana J. Peterson, Juvenile Justice Collaboration Program Manager for the Department of Health and Human Services, Children and Family Services. I have a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters degree in Community Counseling. I have worked with children and families for the past 30 years and I enjoy helping others.

Desi Acosta

H. Desiree Acosta is a Peer Support Specialist/Youth Advocate at the Nebraska Family Support Network. Desi uses her lived experience of growing up in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems as motivation for her work with youth. Desi is eagerly sought out by local providers to serve on committees, give presentations, and generally share her insights and experience to support systems change. Desi attends Crossover (rebranded as YOUTH Impact in Douglas County) weekly to meet with youth who are involved with both child welfare and juvenile justice. In addition, Desi works one-on-one with youth referred from Juvenile Probation, Child Welfare and the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Tamara Gavin

Tamara Gavin, LCSW, is the Deputy Director of Community Based Services for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health. In her current capacity, she will oversee the development and implementation of the Nebraska System of Care. She has over 15 years experience working in the Nebraska youth service system, having worked in child welfare and juvenile justice, residential youth programs and providing therapy to Nebraska youth and families. Additional experience includes serving as the Clinical Director for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska.

Dr. Lindsey Wylie

Lindsey Wylie, J.D., Ph.D., is the research coordinator at JJI. In general, her research interests include understanding how the legal system impacts vulnerable populations and the relationship between law and biases towards these groups. Her current projects include examining evidence-based juvenile justice programs in Nebraska.



Speaker Biographies

Betty Medinger

Betty Medinger, LCSW is Senior Vice President with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. She began her employment with Nebraska Children in January 2013 after retiring from 27 years with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services having worked in the Lincoln and southeast counties of NE and in state level administration with child welfare and economic assistance programs. Additional experience includes work in a non-profit child serving organization, independent consultation in NE and CO, and being adjunct faculty with Southeast Community College and Wesleyan University. Betty's work at Nebraska Children includes working with state/local partners, public /private funders to support cradle to career opportunity for children and families. Betty is married to Dennis Medinger, has two sons, and two grandchildren.

Bruce Prenda

1987 graduate Brown University and 1991 graduate Creighton School of Law. Licensed attorney in Massachusetts and Nebraska. Worked for Massachusetts Senate and Nebraska Legislature before joining the Lancaster County Attorney in 1997. Worked as a criminal and juvenile court prosecutor, including a year as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. Recently assumed Chief Deputy responsibilities for the Juvenile Division within the Lancaster County Attorney's Office.

Judge Reggie Ryder

Judge Reggie L. Ryder was appointed to the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska in 2007. He has since served as the president of the Juvenile Court Judges Association as well as the presiding judge for Lancaster County, Nebraska. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Ryder served as a Deputy Lancaster County Public Defender from 1998 to 2007, where he spent most of that time devoted exclusively to working with families and children in Juvenile Court.

Tina Bouma

School Social Worker with Lincoln Public Schools at Park Middle School. Assisted with the implementation and expansion of the Truancy Diversion Program with in LPS and Lancaster County since 2011.

Gabrielle Danner

Gabrielle Danner, LCSW, is a School Social Worker with Lincoln Public Schools. Gabrielle has worked with adolescents involved in juvenile justice since 2010. Gabrielle presently works as the Truancy Diversion Program Coordinator at Lincoln High School and was previously the Truancy Diversion Program Coordinator at Goodrich Middle School since 2014.

Ryan Zabawa

Principal at Park Middle School in Lincoln, NE since 2009. Prior to Park, I was Associate Principal at North Star High School from 2003-2009. Originally from Norfolk, NE (Norfolk Catholic). Undergraduate work done at UNK and graduate school at Doane.

Mark Larson

Principal at Park Middle School in Lincoln, NE since 2009. Prior to Park, I was Associate Principal at North Star High School from 2003-2009. Originally from Norfolk, NE (Norfolk Catholic). Undergraduate work done at UNK and graduate school at Doane.



Speaker Biographies

Cortney Schlueter

Right Turn Director, Cortney Schlueter, LMHP, LADC and Sara Sanson, PLMHP (supervisor), together with adoptive parents Amber and Robert Baker, have extensive child welfare, adoption and guardianship experience. Schlueter and Sanson have a combined 22 years of experience in child welfare with 10 years in adoption alone. The Bakers have been married for 25 years and have been privileged to love over 60 children in their home - of those they have four biological, six guardianship and five adopted children.

Jennifer Verhein

Jennifer A. Verhein, J.D., practiced law in Iowa with Legal Aid and with the Office of the Des Moines County Attorney. Following a successful legal practice, Jennifer adapted her skills to work in higher education, serving first as the Registrar at Midland University in Fremont, NE, and most recently as an Assistant Registrar at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In October 2015, Jennifer became Nebraska's first Statewide Language Access Coordinator.

Vladimir Bazan

Vladimir Bazan is a native of Lima, Peru who moved to the United States in 2001. While in Peru he obtained a three year degree in English as a Second Language and Pedagogical Sciences, worked as an ESL instructor and telephonic interpreter. His experience as an interpreter in Peru made a big impression on him, and once in the U.S. he decided to pursue a professional career as an interpreter and translator. This pursuit began with Interpreting and Translating coursework at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, has led him to obtain an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, extensive training and development sessions in and outside of Nebraska, and as of May 2016, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Administration from Doane College. Vladimir is a Nebraska Supreme Court Certified Interpreter and is currently the Interpreter Coordinator for the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. He has worked as a freelance interpreter and translator for more than 12 years, served the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a staff translator, and worked for Alegent Creighton Medical Center as a staff interpreter and translator. Vladimir is also certified by the Board of Medical Interpreters, active member of the American Translator Association, and former board member and active member of the Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters.

Marsha Conroy

An Omaha resident, Marsha Conroy is a Nebraska State Certified Court Interpreter and EOIR Immigration Interpreter. She is a conference presenter and interpreter trainer; she is growing accustomed to traveling across the Midwest and beyond. Owner of MarCon Translation Services LLC, she is a French > English translator, specializing in immigration- and humanitarian-related topics. Member ATA, MICATA, NAJIT.

Nanette Simmons

Nanette Simmons is an Administrator in the Division of Children and Family Services with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and works with Title IV-E. Nanette has been with the department for 4 years. She began her career over 19 years ago in the Nebraska Child Welfare field working in a private agency providing Family Support and other services to the children and families of Nebraska.



Speaker Biographies

Manuel Escamilla

I have been employed with the Nebraska Department and Health & Human Services office for 36 years. The first 7 years I worked with Economic Assistance in food stamps, Aid to the Disabled and Aid to Dependent Children. The next 26 years I worked as an Income Maintenance Foster Care Worker, establishing IV-E eligibility for State Wards. The past 3 years I have been the IV-E Program Specialist in Central Office, providing IV-E policy support for our Nebraska IM-FC staff.

Judge Michael Burns

Judge Burns has been a county judge serving in the Tenth Judicial District of Nebraska for over five years. He currently serves on various law-related commissions, committees and sub-committees, including the Governor's Advisory Commission for the Protection of Children, the Supreme Court's Commission for Children in the Courts and the Juvenile Judges' Jurisdiction Curriculum Committee, while also serving as the lead judge for multiple counties in the Tenth Judicial District.

Sue Dempsey

Sue Dempsey is a Risk Assessor/Toxicologist with the NE Dept. of Health and Human Services. For the past 25+ years she has provided toxicology, risk assessment, and risk communication expertise for federal, state, county, and city agencies. She addresses issues ranging from drinking water contamination and toxic algae, to indoor air concerns and methamphetamine decontamination. She also serves as an appointed member of the State Emergency Response Commission and is an adjunct instructor at Doane University.

Hon. Larry Gendler

Univ of MO at Columbia 1975; BS in Public Administration; Creighton Univ 1978 J.D.; Sarpy County Attorney's Office 1977-1992; Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court Judge 1992-present. Project Chair for the statewide Eyes of the Child Initiative (2006-present), Nebraska Bar Ass'n legislative review committee(2009-present), Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts (2004-present).

Meggie Misfeldt

Through her roll as Dodge County's Community Youth Coordinator, Meggie Misfeldt oversees the county's Truancy and Crossover Youth Diversion programs, preventing youth from entering the court system. Additionally, Meggie provides prevention and aftercare services to at-risk youth and families. She also helps to ensure simplified case management between the different systems that may be involved with a family, including coordination between Probation and Child Welfare.

Monica DeMent

Monica DeMent has been with the Nebraska Department of Health and Services for 13 years and is currently a Child and Family Service Administrator in the Southeast Service Area out of the Lincoln office. She is a original member of the Lancaster County Crossover Youth Team that began planning in mid 2014. She has played an integral role in the development of CYPM protocols and processes for Lancaster County and is actively involved in ongoing monitoring and leadership of that team in cooperation with her 3J District Probation counterpart. The Lancaster County Crossover Team launched their program in May 2015 and currently has 20 active crossover youth in their program cohort.



Speaker Biographies

Michael Umpierre

Michael Umpierre is a Senior Research Fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR). Among his responsibilities at CJJR, Michael manages the Youth in Custody Practice Model initiative and serves as a lead consultant on the Crossover Youth Practice Model. An attorney by training, Michael previously worked as a public defender in Washington, D.C., the Chief of Staff for the District's cabinet-level juvenile justice agency, and the program coordinator of the OJJDP-sponsored National Center for Youth in Custody. Michael resides in the nation's capital with his wife and three-year-old son.

Cara Stirts

Cara Stirts is a Deputy County Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Douglas County Attorney's Office. She specializes in truancy issues and diversion. Cara is a member of Douglas County's Crossover Youth Practice Model team, Youth Impact!, and she participates in various committees and work groups that focus on juvenile justice reform.

Joan Frances

Joan Frances has worked for 50 years in developing innovative community based resources for children and youth. She is currently contracted by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to support the implementation of the statewide Connected Youth Initiative with a particular focus on supporting local connective impact efforts.

Kari Rumbaugh

Kari Rumbaugh has served as Assistant Deputy Administrator with the Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Division, since October 1, 2014. She began her Probation career as a juvenile probation officer for the Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court in November, 2000. In 2006, she joined the Office of Probation Administration as Deputy Interstate Compact Administrator. Soon after, in 2007 she was asked to develop the Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) Program in collaboration with AmeriCorps as the Program Director. In June 2012, Kari took on the role of Compliance Officer creating and conducting Probation district evaluations.

Lindy Bryceson

Lindy Bryceson is the Children and Family Services Field Operations Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Bryceson began her career working with children and families more than 35 years ago in both urban and rural communities in Nebraska. Ms. Bryceson has been involved in the evolution of child welfare and juvenile justice in Nebraska and is confident that families are better served when we better understand our roles and collaborate cross divisions and systems.



Speaker Biographies

Alyson Goedken

Alyson Goedken is the Alternative Response Administrator in Lincoln, NE. She has multiple years of experience in child welfare including caseworker, supervisor and trainer. Alyson is a graduate of Iowa State University with a bachelors degree in Child and Family Services and a masters degree in Organizational Leadership from College of Saint Mary's.

Megan Kawa

Megan Kawa began working with the Department in 2009. She has experience working as an Initial Assessment and Hotline Intake Child and Family Services Specialist.

Raegan Brown

Raegan Brown has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Science degree in Professional Community Counseling from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Raegan has been employed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for 4 years, during which she was a Child and Family Services Specialist for 3 1/2 years and has been a Child and Family Services Supervisor since January 2016. Raegan has experience with Alternative Response as a caseworker—worked with families with accepted Alternative Response cases; as a supervisor—supervises a Child and Family Services Specialist whose focus is Alternative Response; and has presented Alternative Response to communities in the Southeast Service Area prior to its start date in those communities.

Kristin Dewispelare

Kristin DeWispelare is a Child and Family Services Specialist Supervisor with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in the Columbus office. Kristin has served on the Statewide Internal Alternative Response workgroup where she helped develop and implement Alternative Response in Nebraska.

Lori Harder

Lori Harder, Deputy Director for Community Based Services in the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Previously worked as Field Operations Administrator and tribal liaison for the Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care where I was responsible for the administration of Medicaid/CHIP eligibility determinations and the service coordination of Aged and Disabled Waiver services for children 0 – 19 years of age. I worked in the service delivery system of Children and Family Services including economic assistance, resource development and child/adult protection and safety services. I was the Administrator of Services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities for 3 years. I have a diploma in nursing and a bachelors degree in business administration and psychology.

Robert McEwen

Robbie McEwen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since joining Appleseed, Robbie has managed the Foster Care Reform Legal Resource Center, which provides a variety of resources to assist frontline child welfare attorneys in addressing systemic issues in their individual cases. Robert has also co-authored two amici briefs before the Nebraska Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.



Speaker Biographies

Jill Holt

Jill Holt, MSW, MPA – DHHS ICWA Program Coordinator Jill has been in her position at DHHS as the ICWA Program Coordinator since February, 2016. Jill received an undergraduate degree in social work from Kansas State University and graduate degrees in social work and public administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Prior to her employment with the Department, Jill was the ICWA Specialist for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for more than seven years. Jill's previous child welfare experience also includes working with Child Saving Institute in Omaha, Nebraska, as a therapeutic foster care specialist and coordinator of the therapeutic foster care program. From these experiences, Jill has developed an extensive knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act and has worked with tribal representatives, juvenile court stakeholders and child welfare professionals in federal, state and private agencies.

Anne Dailey

Anne Dailey enjoys a position at MST Services serving as a liaison to MST Network Partnerships that provide ongoing training, program development, and continuous quality improvement support for local MST programs. She began her MST journey in Syracuse, NY in January 2000 as a MST Supervisor and then a MST Expert, joining MST Services in September 2007. She received Masters Degrees in Social Work from Syracuse University and in Counseling from State University of NY @ Oswego, both in upstate New York where she resides.

Dave Reed

Dave Reed holds an M.S. in counseling from the University of Kansas and has been with Boys Town for 22 years in a variety of roles. Dave is currently the Senior Director of Nebraska/Iowa Family Services, overseeing In-Home Family Services, Foster Family Services, Common Sense Parenting, the Central Nebraska Behavioral Health Clinic and Intervention and Assessment program, and the Duncan Day School alternative education program. In 2015 the Nebraska/Iowa Family Services division directly cared for over 4900 children and 2300 families.

Jeanne Brandner

Jeanne Brandner was selected to fill the position of Deputy Probation Administrator of the Juvenile Services Division in the Office of Probation Administration July 1, 2014. As Nebraska Probation's Juvenile Division Assistant Deputy Administrator, Jeanne Brandner's leadership skills have been extremely beneficial as the Juvenile Probation system expanded to accommodate working with Nebraska's juvenile justice youth. Her expertise and experience in the juvenile justice field in Arizona and on a national level have been invaluable to Probation's implementation of LB 561 and LB 464. Jeanne is a graduate of Wayne State College and Bellevue University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Human Services respectively.

Stephen Patrick O'Meara

43 years practicing law, including 25 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Iowa and Nebraska, with background emphasizing issues involving youth, mental health, organized drug and violent crime, and human trafficking. Work regarding human trafficking since 2007, including about 5 years as the main prosecutor for the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force, and currently, since May of 2015, as the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator (Attorney General's Office).



Speaker Biographies

Erin Aliano

Erin Aliano is the Special Projects Coordinator with the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers. Her current special project is to enhance the Child Advocacy Centers' response across Nebraska for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth. She is working with a variety of disciplines across the state to improve the response to child trafficking victims.

Chris Costantakos

Chris Costantakos is an Omaha attorney engaged in private practice, specializing in juvenile court law. She is the author of "Juvenile Court Law & Practice" published by Thomson-Reuters, now in its 11th edition.

Debi Hatfield

Debi is a child and family program specialist and has been with the Children's Bureau in the Region 7 Kansas City office for 6 years. Debi's primary work is with the state of Nebraska and the tribes of Nebraska. Debi is an LMSW with 30+ years experience in various roles within children and family services.

Doug Beran

Doug is the Deputy Director of Research, Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Children and Family Services. Doug has been with the Department for 4-1/2 years. Doug earned his MBA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Bachelors degree from Doane College. Doug and his team of quality assurance staff, statisticians and technical business analysts support the child welfare teams through CQI, proactive case reviews, data analytics, CFSR training, system enhancements, process improvement and Federal data reporting.

Kathleen Stolz

Kathleen Stolz, JD has worked in the area of Child Protection for over 23 years. Kathleen currently serves as the Central Service Area Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Children and Family Services. As the Service Area Administrator, Kathleen oversees Child Protection Services, Adult Protection Services and the Bridge to Independent Program. Prior to coming to work at DHHS, Kathleen was the program coordinator for the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board. Kathleen is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law. Most importantly, She is the mother of 3 boys - ranging from age 25 to 14!

Vicki Maca

Vicki Maca, LCSW, LMHP; is the Deputy Director for Protection and Safety with the Division of Children and Family Services/ DHHS. Vicki returned to the Division of Children and Family Services in October of 2011 after serving in a leadership role with the Division of Behavioral Health. Prior to state government, Vicki served as the Director of the Campus for Hope/ Catholic Charities; NE's largest residential addiction recovery center and also served as Catholic Charities' Clinical Director of Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services. Vicki has experience as a home-based family therapist working with families involved in the child welfare system and has supervised an Intensive Family Preservation program.



Speaker Biographies

Cassy Blakely

Cassy Blakely, MA, PLMHP focuses on policy issues facing unconnected youth at Nebraska Children. She approaches this work with experience, including residential and occupational support to adults with developmental disabilities, national Positive Youth Development consulting, and clinical work with youth, eating disorders, and addiction. Cassy has facilitated the development of a Project Everlast Speakers Bureau and supported statewide youth leadership through the Governor's Youth Advisory Council and Project Everlast Youth Leadership Team. Her current work involves collaborating with state partners, boards/committees, and policy-makers in ensuring policies are responsive to the needs and experiences of young people. Cassy completed her BA in Psychology and Sociology in 2008 and MA in Counseling in 2013, both from Doane College. She also enjoys watching her two children grow.

Jennie Cole-Mossman

LIMHP is the Co-Director of The Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children at the University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families, and the Law. This project focuses on enhancing the well being of young children who have experienced maltreatment and/or are involved in the court process. The project focuses on both systemic and case level changes to provide better outcomes for vulnerable young children. Ms. Cole-Mossman is a Child Parent Psychotherapy trainer for Nebraska. She was the former Coordinator of the Project Safe Start Program and the Infant Toddler Court Improvement Project at the Nebraska Court Improvement Project. Prior to beginning systems work, Ms. Cole-Mossman worked as a therapist for young children and adolescents in private practice. She currently provides technical assistance, reflective consultation, and training both in Nebraska and nationally regarding issues related to early childhood well being and early childhood trauma.

Judge Roger Heideman

Judge Roger Heideman earned his BA from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas in 1984, then went on to complete his JD at the UNL College of Law in 1992. After serving as partner for the law firm of Morris, Titus & Heideman, Judge Heideman was appointed to the bench in 2006 by Governor Heineman. He was the past Lead Judge for Lancaster County's Through the Eyes of the Child team. He is currently the judge for the Lancaster County Family Treatment Drug Track. Judge Heideman is the 2016 Collaborative Excellence Award Winner from the the National Child Welfare League of America for his work in the family drug court.

Jamie Bahm

Jamie Bahm is a Child and Family Services Supervisor with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Jamie currently supervises the Lancaster County Family Drug Court team and has been working in child welfare since 2010. Jamie has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and an M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, both received from the University of Nebraska. She has a career focus in working with children and families who are affected by parental substance use and providing trauma-informed services to families.

Judge Douglas Johnson

Judge Doug Johnson has been a juvenile judge for over 22 years. He is a Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and serves on it teaching faculty. He and his dog Finnegan are a therapy team. Finnegan comes to court everyday since Nov. 1, 2012 and soothes others wordlessly. Judge Johnson is passionate about improving the lives of the children and parents we serve and doesn't mind causing trouble to do that.



Speaker Biographies

Misty (Thomas) Frazier

is a member of the Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska and a descendant of the Tingit of Alaska. She has been the director of the Dakota Tiwahe Service Unit, the Social Services Department for the Santee Sioux Nation since 2006. Misty received both of her degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and Family Sciences in 2001 and Master's Degree in Sociology in 2006). She has been recognized as a Champion of Change by the White House. She has turned the dream of a DV shelter in Santee, Neb., into reality with Otokahe Teca Tipi (New Beginnings House) in 2011. Misty has also been recognized with the Early Achiever Award from the University of Nebraska Alumni Association in 2013 and the DV program received an award from the Nebraska Crime Commission in 2012.

Anne Hobbs

Dr. Anne Hobbs is a licensed attorney and research faculty as well as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Her professional interests involve inequality in access to justice, evidence based practices, juvenile re-entry after incarceration and mentoring youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Meghan Malik

Meghan Malik, M.P.A. is the Women's Fund of Omaha Trafficking Response Coordinator where she is responsible for convening partners to develop a network of service provision and conduct trafficking research. Research includes a Nebraska environmental scan of service needs, and coordinating formal research projects on sex trafficking in Nebraska. Meghan also partners with the Attorney General's Office as a member of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force. Meghan's past experience includes serving as a Program Director at the Nebraska Children's Home Society and Lutheran Family Services, and the Executive Director of the Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.

Crysta Price

Crysta N. Price is the Director of the Data Science Laboratory at Creighton University and the co-Director of the Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI). The goal of HTI is to identify how human trafficking operates in the US and test policies for constraining them. HTI is funded by a major grant from the Sherwood Foundation. Ms. Price has her master's degree in Data Science; she has written broadly on the extent of human trafficking and approaches to dealing with the issue.

Rodney Henderson

Rodney Henderson Sr. is a 13 year Veteran Police Officer with the City of Omaha Police Department and has spent the last 10 years in the Crime Prevention Unit as an SRO at both the Middle and High School levels. Rodney has a passion for challenging young people at reaching their goals and is currently finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Health at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has applied and has been accepted to begin his Master's Degree program in Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in January 2017.

David Westerholt

Dave Westerholt has been a police officer for 19 years and a school resource officer for 14 of those years, serving with the Blair Police Department. He is certified with the National Association of School Resource Officers in Basic and Advanced SRO Cerifications.



Speaker Biographies

Suellen Koepke

Suellen is the Executive Director for Healing Hearts & Families located in Broken Bow, NE. She has been doing this work since 2000 and prior to that she was a teacher in the local school system. She is the mother of two daughters and a grandmother of two, so this topic is very important to her.

Miranda Stoll

Is originally from Broken Bow and currently lives in Elwood with her husband, Dan, 4 year old son, Jaxen, and 11 month old daughter Holley. She has her Masters in counseling and currently works as the Diversion Supervisor for the six counties that we serve.

Shellie Sabata

Shellie D. Sabata is a Deputy County Attorney with the Lancaster County Attorney's Office. She has been working in the County Attorney's Office for 19 years and has worked exclusively in the Juvenile Division for the last 16 years. The office files a large number of Juvenile Court pleadings annually, and Shellie has extensive experience filing and conducting trials and appeals involving motions for termination of parental rights in the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Deb Denny

J.D., is the director of the Office of Dispute Resolution in Nebraska's State Court Administrator's Office. In this role, she works to enhance the use of quality mediation, restorative justice and ADR practices with courts, probation, mediators, tribes and the public. She is a project director for court initiatives such as enhanced juvenile restorative justice pilot project in victim offender conferencing, child welfare and family group conferencing, comprehensive Parenting Act custody research, and parenting mediation. Collaborative policy and court protocol development, education, implementation are part of these efforts. Debora served as Adjunct Faculty in ADR with Creighton University School of Law, Omaha, NE, and was a member of the Executive Board of the National Association for Community Mediation. As founding director of a regional mediation center, she worked with 24 counties and the four Native tribes in northeast Nebraska. Debora is a current member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, the Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Self-Represented Litigation, the Nebraska State Bar Association and its ADR Section Executive Committee, the Nebraska State Bar Foundation, the Nebraska Mediation Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section.

Sheila Wolff

Shelia Wolff is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. She serves as the Case Manager for the Ponca Tribes Social Services Department in the Lincoln office. She has been in this position for 7 years providing case management services to Ponca children, their families, and elders of the Tribe.

Mary Visek

Mary Visek is the Chief Probation Officers for District 4J (Douglas County). While in her position, Chief Visek has been actively involved with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) for Douglas County. Chief Visek sits on the Douglas County Collaborative and serves as Co-Chair for the Objective Admissions Committee. Chief Visek has a passion for juvenile justice reform and has been instrumental in the marked improvements in Douglas County.



Speaker Biographies

Judge Bob O'Neal

Judge O'Neal presides in Judicial District 2 as one of the Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court Judges, as well as hearing juvenile related cases in Otoe County. Judge O'Neal has been a strong advocate for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) work in Sarpy County. He has also been instrumental with the expansion efforts of JDAI into Otoe County. Judge O'Neal serves on the Executive Committee for the State Wide JDAI Collaborative, where he provides his knowledge and expertise in moving the JDAI efforts across Nebraska.

Michele Lueders

Michele Lueders works with the Office of Probation Administration as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Specialist. Within this role Ms. Lueders provides technical assistances to the two JDAI sites in Nebraska. Ms. Lueders is an advocate for the young people in Nebraska and wants to ensure all youth have the same opportunities provided to them, no matter where they live.

Kinsey Baker

DHHS Administrator for Initial Assessment in the Eastern Service Area

Kari Pitt

DHHS Administrator for Initial Assessment in the Eastern Service Area

Lara Swerczek

DHHS Administrator for the Northern Service Area

Katherine Batt

DHHS Administrator for Western Service Area

Casey Smith

DHHS Administrator for Central Service Area

Christine Henningsen

Christine Henningsen is the Director of Nebraska Youth Advocates a project housed at UNL's Center on Children, Families and the Law. Nebraska Youth Advocates works to advance the practice of juvenile defense through training, resource development and advocacy for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Christine previously worked as a public defender representing youth in Douglas County and as the Juvenile Justice Attorney for Nebraska's Court Improvement Project. Christine graduated from Creighton University School of Law and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Loyola University of Chicago. She is a member of the Nebraska Bar and Chair of the Juvenile Law Section.



Speaker Biographies

Dennis Marks

Dennis Marks received his B.A from Briar Cliff University in 1983 and his J.D. degree from the Creighton University School of Law in 1986. He has worked as a deputy public defender in Sarpy County, Nebraska since September 1996 representing juveniles in delinquency and status offense matters. Mr. Marks assisted Sarpy County in establishing drug courts in both the juvenile and adult justice systems. He has assisted in the passage of juvenile justice reform legislation, co-chairs a committee involving the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, formerly co-chaired the Continuing Legal Education Committee for the Juvenile Law Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association and represents the State of Nebraska as a member of the Advisory Board for the Midwest Region of the National Juvenile Defender Center.

Charles Lieske

Charles Lieske has been a mediator since 2009 and Executive Director of Mediation West (Scottsbluff) since 2015. Charles has several mediation certifications, including Family mediation, advanced facilitation, special education and restorative justice. Mediation West has been piloting a victim-offender conferencing program and has participated in trainings by internationally known figures in child-centered models.

Lindsay Snyder

Is a general litigator admitted to practice law in the state of Nebraska. Lindsay obtained her Bachelor of Arts, with highest distinction, in philosophy from Nebraska Wesleyan University in May of 2006. Having always known she wanted to be a lawyer, Lindsay went straight to law school after graduating from NWU. During law school, Lindsay clerked at the office of Bartle & Geier in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lindsay received her Juris Doctorate from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May of 2009. Lindsay is a native to the Nebraska panhandle, having been born and raised in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Upon graduating from law school in May of 2009, Lindsay returned to the Nebraska panhandle and began her practice as an attorney with Smith, Snyder, Pettitt, Hofmeister & Snyder in September of 2009. Within the community, Lindsay sits on the boards for CASA, The Golden Halo Foundation, and Twin Cities Development.

Judge Randin Roland

Judge Roland graduated from Creighton School of Law in 1993. In 2004 he was appointed to be a county judge in the 12th judicial district in the Nebraska Panhandle. Based out of Sidney, Nebraska, Judge Roland presides over the county courts in Cheyenne, Kimball, Deuel, and Garden Counties, and currently serves as the Presiding County Court Judge for the 12th Judicial District. Judge Roland is also a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts.

Jennifer Taylor

I am currently a Child and Family Services Specialist with the Department of Health and Human Services. I have been working with the Department for four years. I have training in ongoing cases, initial assessment (investigating intakes) as well as some alternative response cases. I currently specialize in voluntary or non-court cases with families but I also work with families going through the court process. My education is a bachelor's of science in criminal justice. I have also done volunteer work with children with disabilities. Working with children, teens, families to better their lives is something that I strive for daily and my passion.



Speaker Biographies

Kate Benish

I have been working with District 12 probation since January 2012. I started in adult probation and transferred to juvenile probation in June 2013. I supervise juveniles in Kimball County, Cheyenne County and Deuel County. I work with a vast majority of Juveniles, families, professions and other stake holders. I have participated in one mediation that was conducted in May 2016. I was very pleased with the result and the option that gave both the child and parent an equal voice.

Amy Hoffman

Amy Hoffman is the Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs with the Nebraska Crime Commission. Previous experience includes representing parents and juveniles in juvenile court, serving as Guardian Ad Litem, and working for a local County Attorney's Office.

Becky Steiner

I am a graduate of Wayne State College with a degree in Human Service Counseling and a minor in criminal justice. I have worked in the juvenile justice field for over 17 years, I have experience managing residential facilities and also community based programming. I currently am the Juvenile Justice Coordinator for Lancaster County, I oversee Lancaster County Juvenile Diversion Program along Early Assessment and Pre-Adjudication Services.

Denise Krael

Denise has served as the Colfax County Attorney since 2010. Denise is the County Attorney representative to the Nebraska Coalition of Juvenile Justice where she serves as the Chair of the statewide Diversion Advisory Committee. In her spare time Denise enjoys traveling with her daughter, Kodie.

Pam Lausterer

Pamela Lausterer is the Program Director of the Saunders County Juvenile Pre-Trial Diversion program and has held this position for 20 years. She graduated from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in 1977 with a bachelors degree in Social Work and Criminal Justice.

Nora Murphy

Nora Murphy is an independent consultant with the cooperative firm, TerraLuna Collaborative. Together, with more than twenty years of experience supporting systems change efforts, including work with Omaha Public Schools and agencies serving Homeless Youth in the Twin Cities of Minnesota.

Sarah Helvey

Sarah Helvey is a Staff Attorney and Director of the Child Welfare Program at Nebraska Appleseed. Sarah serves as co-chair of the Normalcy Taskforce, a statutorily established stakeholder group charged with monitoring and making recommendations regarding the implementation of the Strengthening Families Act in Nebraska. In addition, Sarah serves on the Bridge to Independence (B2I) Advisory Committee, sits on the Supreme Court Commission for Children in the Courts and is the co-chair of the Legal Services Committee of the Nebraska State Bar Association. When not in meetings or at work, Sarah is usually running around midtown Omaha in the early morning hours or carpooling her kids to activities.



Speaker Biographies

Charmagne Campbell-Patton

Charmagne Campbell-Patton is an independent consultant with the cooperative firm, TerraLuna Collaborative. Together, with more than twenty years of experience supporting systems change efforts, including work with Omaha Public Schools and agencies serving Homeless Youth in the Twin Cities of Minnesota.

Greg Donovan

Greg Donovan is the director of the Santee Sioux Nation Society of Care. In this role Greg coordinates the efforts of outreach specialists and mental health providers in tribal, urban, and reservation communities throughout Nebraska and northeast Kansas. Previously he held leadership positions within state government, non-profits, community action agencies, and United Way.

Karen Haase

Karen Haase is a principal in the law firm of KSB School Law, where she focuses her practice exclusively on representing public school districts and related entities. She holds degrees from Hastings College, Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska College of Law. Prior to attending law school, Karen taught at both the high school and post-secondary level. Karen has been married to her high school sweetheart for 25 years and has two teen-aged children.

Kay Glidden

Kay Glidden, MS, has had careers in Higher Education, counseling and public behavioral health. She is a certified trainer in Compassion Fatigue from Compassion Fatigue Solutions, Inc., and the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology.

Beth Reynolds Lewis

Beth Reynolds Lewis, BS, has had careers as a Protection and Safety Worker, a Forensic Interviewer and public behavioral health. She is a certified trainer in Compassion Fatigue from Compassion Fatigue Solutions, Inc., and the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology.

Terrence Williams

Terrence Williams, Bridge to Independence Supervisor for the Lincoln area and Central/Western Service Areas, has been with the B2i program since September 2015. Prior to this, worked in ongoing case management and initial assessment for Children and Family Services. I've found working with young adults to be rewarding; challenges always come, but resiliency and success follow!

Chris Mendoza

Chris Mendoza is a 20 year employee with the Department of Health and Human Services, He has worked at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney for eight years and has investigated and case managed child abuse/neglect cases and OJS cases for 10 years. Chris is currently the Central Service area Bridge to Independence Coordinator.



Speaker Biographies

Dawn Coffey

I have been with NDHHS for 11 years. I have been an ongoing worker, initial assessment and have been with the Bridge to Independence program since September 2014.

Amoreena Brady

Amoreena Brady is the Case Management and Services Specialist in the Juvenile Service Division of the Office of Probation Administration for the State of Nebraska. She began serving in this capacity in August 2013. Ms. Brady has 20 years of probation experience in various state settings, systems, and has served a wide variety of probation populations. In 1996, Ms. Brady began her career with the Orange County Probation Department in California, where she worked in the juvenile hall and as a probation officer in the field. In 2006, she began her career with the Nebraska State Probation System as a probation officer in District 2 (Sarpy County). In Ms. Brady's current role, she is charged with coordinating statewide case management for juveniles in Nebraska and assist with proper service utilization. In June of 1996, Ms. Brady earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Chapman University, Orange, CA. In June 2014, Ms. Brady completed a certificate program and is a fellow of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Kathy Gabrielle Madelung

Kathy Gabrielle-Madelung, Mediation Director at Mediation West in Scottsbluff, NE. as well as Private Mediator at Madelung Law and Mediation Services. Kathy is a Nebraska Supreme Court approved Parenting Plan Mediator and is trained in Basic, Family and Special Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediations as well as Family Group Conference, Pre-Hearing Conference and PPHC/PHTPR Facilitations. Kathy's background also includes Orthopedic and Rehabilitation nursing, Recreational Therapy (C.T.R.S), Wedding Coordinating/Event Planning, Private Catering and Baking.



Plenary Speaker Biographies



Dr. Shay Bilchik

Shay Bilchik is a Research Professor and the founder and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. The Center's purpose is to advance a balanced, multi-systems approach to reducing juvenile delinquency that promotes positive child and youth development, while also holding youth accountable. Prior to this position, Mr. Bilchik was the President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, and Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the U.S. Department of Justice. Before coming to the nation's capital, Mr. Bilchik was an Assistant State Attorney in Miami, Florida from 1977-1993, where he served as a trial lawyer, juvenile division chief, and Chief Assistant State Attorney. Mr. Bilchik earned his B.S. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida.



Withelma "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew

Withelma "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew is a Survivor Leader and nationally recognized policy consultant as well as professional moderator. Previously, she specialized in developing strategies to end domestic child sex trafficking, reforming the child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health systems and implementing policies and practices to ensure that all vulnerable children have an opportunity to thrive. Furthermore, T uses her story and experiences to highlight themes of wellness, empowerment, self-discovery, self-esteem building and personal fulfillment. Named by TIME magazine one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2014 and one of the "30 People Under 30 Changing the World" in 2013, T was also honored by Glamour magazine as a "Woman of the Year" in 2011. T testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on the need to strengthen the child welfare response to domestic child sex trafficking, The JVT. T presented on "Exploring Sexuality After Trauma" at TEDx Amherst, and has delivered keynote speeches and served as a panelist at many conferences, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Google Ideas Summit, and the Tribeca Film Festival. She serves on the boards of the Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls), and the National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council, and is a consultant for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She is a youth voice correspondent for the online child welfare and juvenile justice news site, The Chronicle of Social Change. Founder of the Still Alive Initiative in 2009, T provides mentoring and counseling for victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, and consulting and training for government agencies, institutions, and nonprofits on youth policy and service provision for cross-system youth and victims of domestic child sex trafficking. T is currently attempting to complete a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Political Science.



Hon. Judge Lucero

The Honorable Judge Lucero currently supervises the Juvenile Justice Division of the Santa Clara County Superior Court. She has been on the bench for 15 years. She is a former prosecutor specializing in crimes against children and the elderly. She has provided training nationally to judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and probation officers on issues that impact children and families who are court involved. She is a published author and has received national recognition for her ability to bring stakeholders together and create systems change that improve outcomes for families and create cost savings to the government.



Vendors

